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LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the destabilizing developments in our northern region resulting from the recent escalation of fighting against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is extremely concerned about the fresh Armenian military offensives and continued occupation of Azeri territory. Local Armenian forces, supported by forces of the Republic of Armenia, are grabbing more lands as they push deeper inside the territory of Azerbaijan. These destabilizing events, close to our northern borders, endanger peace and security of the entire area, thus threatening national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The recent military operations have already resulted in significant casualties and so far, 30,000 Azeri citizens, fleeing their homes, have entered the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran seeking safe refuge.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously lent its mediation efforts to bring about the cessation of military operations and encouraged both sides to seek peaceful settlement of their dispute. The presence of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the area gave extraordinary impetus to such mediation and through his personal initiative on the spot, military operations were halted as of yesterday. The recent history of the conflict clearly illustrates that without the active support and involvement of the international community through immediate, serious and effective decision on the part of the Security Council, minor incidents might erupt into another major conflict.

In light of the foregoing, my Government requests the convening of an urgent meeting of the Security Council to address the issue and take necessary measures, including the dispatch of peace-keeping forces to the area, to consolidate the cease-fire and allow for efforts aimed at achieving a just and honourable solution to the conflict.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and underlines the importance of respect for the cease-fire and the immediate withdrawal of all Armenian forces from the entire occupied territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative